

June 17, 2002

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM FABRIC COATING, PRINTING, AND DYEING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- !** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from fabric coating, printing, and dyeing facilities. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.
- !** This rule is divided into three subcategories: fabric coating and printing, dyeing and finishing, and slashing.
- !** Fabric coating and printing refers to the process of applying a coating or print to one or both sides of a continuous web substrate, such as a roll of fabric. The coatings prints are applied for decorative and/or functional purposes.
- !** Dyeing is the application of color to the whole body of a textile material such as yarn, thread, cord, fiber, fabric or other textile material. Finishing is a process performed after dyeing that improves the appearance and /or usefulness of a textile substrate.
- !** Slashing is the application of a chemical solution (known as sizing) to the yarn in a water solution followed by squeezing and drying. This process is performed on warp yarn prior to weaving.
- !** The toxic air pollutants emitted during the coating, printing, dyeing, finishing, and slashing operations include: xylenes (isomers and mixtures), toluene, methyl ethyl ketone, methanol, methyl isobutyl ketone, methylene chloride, n-hexane, trichloroethylene, and n,n-dimethylformamide.
- !** Today's proposal would set emissions limits for all web coating or printing lines, dyeing, finishing, or slashing operations that are considered "major" sources of air toxics under the Clean Air Act. A major source is one that has the potential to emit 10 or more tons a year of a single air toxic, or 25 tons or more a year of a combination of toxics.
- !** EPA worked with industry representatives, states (including regulators, enforcement personnel, and small business advocates), and trade associations to develop this proposal.

- ! EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For listed categories of "major" sources, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes fabric coating, printing, dyeing and finishing operations.

BENEFITS AND COST

- ! Today's action would air toxic emissions by approximately 3,535 tons per year. This represents a 69 percent reduction over estimated 1997 emission levels.
- ! Other benefits of this action include a decrease in emissions of other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds. These compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog) which can aggravate a number of respiratory diseases, including asthma.
- ! The EPA expects implementation of this proposed rule to result in national costs of about \$33.3 million per year for the entire industry. These costs take into account the implementation of pollution prevention activities, such as reformulation of coatings. They also include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs (approximately \$2 million).

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE REQUIRES

- ! The proposed rule would affect any new, reconstructed, or existing fabric coating, printing, dyeing, finishing or slashing operations at a facility that is a "major" source of air toxic emissions. The affected source includes all surface coating and/or printing operations, dyeing and finishing, or slashing operations at an affected facility.
- ! Today's action is expected to affect about 200 existing facilities with coating, printing, dyeing, finishing, or slashing operations. Fabric operations are divided into three subcategories:
 - < Coating and/or printing;
 - < dyeing and/or slashing; and
 - < slashing.

! The emission limits proposed today give the industry choices and flexibility in how they reduce air toxic emissions. These compliance options are:

- (1) Use coatings that have been reformulated to reduce the air toxic content.
- (2) Upgrade or install new capture-and-control systems to reduce air toxic emissions.
- (3) Use any combination of (1) and (2) above.

! Facilities must also meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT

! To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.

! The notice and technical support document are also available through the EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-97-51) by calling (202) 260-7548 or fax (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

! Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-97-51, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Mr. Vinson Hellwig, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group (MD-13), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address hellwig.vinson@epa.gov.

! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Mr. Vinson Hellwig, c/o Document Control Officer (Room 740B), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 411 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27711.

! For general information about the proposed standards, contact Mr. Vinson Hellwig of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Coating and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-2317, or by email at hellwig.vinson@epa.gov. Or visit the fabric coating, printing, and dyeing (surface coating) website at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/fabric/>.

! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.